Gauge Conversion of Silchar-Jiribam Railway line

1175. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for gauge conversion of the Silchar-Jiribam railway line;

(b) when the survey work of the Silchar-Jiribam line will be completed;

(c) whether there is any possibility in the budget provision of this year to take up this line; and

(d) if not, when work will be started to take up this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) A survey is in progress for the gauge conversion of Silchar-Jiribam line.

(b) By March, 1999.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Taking up of the work would be considered only after receipt of the survey report.

Overcrowding of Trains at Ahmedabad Railway Station

1176. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ahmedabad railway station is having problem of over crowding of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal was sent by the State Government to the Railway Ministry for development of Sabarmati railway station to solve overcrowding problem at Ahmedabad station; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken by Central Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received to provide stoppage of all Mail/ExprcsvTasscngcr trains at Sabarmati. The same has been examined but not found operationally feasible.

Electrification Survey of Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram Route

1177. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost-cum-fcasibility survey for the electrification of Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram route has been conducted and the report has been submitted to the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cosi-cum-fcasibility survey for electrification of Section Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram has been carried out in the year 1995. Southern Railway has been asked to update the report. Decision to consider electrification of the above section would be taken on receipt and appraisal of updated report.

Gauge Conversion in Gujarat Through Private Funding

1178. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRIMATI URM1LABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals of Government of Gujarat for conversion of Metre/Narrow gauge railway lines pending with the Centre arc

being undertaken through private funding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the work on gauge conversion of Dharangradhra Kuda will be taken up and what time will be taken in its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) The Dharangradhra-Kuda line is being converted on cost-sharing basis between Railway, Ministry of Industry and State Govt. Railway has provided its full share of funds in 1998-99 budget. Work will be started as soon as co-sharers comeforth with their share of funds.

Harassment of Reservation Ticket Holders

1179. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway reservations arc rapidly becoming meaningless inasmuch as the passengers without reservation come and occupy the reserved scats and even after repeated entreaties refuse to vacate them causing great harassment to those having reservation tickets; and

(b) if so, whether Government will issue strict instructions to the conductors attached to the reserved bogies to stop, if necessary with police help, the non-reservation ticket holders from entering into such bogies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Some instances of entering of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and occupying the reserved berths of the bonafidc passengers have come to notice during busy seasons like summer rush, Pooja holidays etc.

(b) Instructions already exist and have since been reiterated further to the railways to conduct surprise checks with the help of GRP/RPF and the persons found travelling unauthorisedly be dealt with under the provisions of Railways Act, 1989.

Operation of Rajdhani Express to Thiruvananthapuram by Delhi staff

1180. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajdhani Express to Thiruvananthapuram is operating by the staff from Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not allowing the staff from Thiruvananthapuram Division to operate one of the Rajdhani Expresses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure uniformity, Rajdhani Express trains arc manned by the staff of the railway which is responsible for the primary maintenance of the train and Northern Railway being such railway, in this case, its staff man this train.

Complaints About Ageing Coaches

1181. SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of complaints from passengers in Eastern, South Eastern and North East Frontier Railways about the use of ageing coaches without requisite amenities;

(b) if so, the action plan to replace these coaches, zone-wise; and

(c) if not, the comparative statistics of the average age of coaches in all the zones of Indian Railways?